



Spring Term Careers Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much for all of your engagement and support with the school Careers programme so far this year. We are really excited to share with you all of the exciting things we have been doing with our pupils this year and also the kind of things that are coming-up in the Summer Term at St James'.

We are currently asking if anybody local would be able to offer some year 10 pupils a work experience placement this July. If this is something you are able to offer then please get in touch!

Miss Ashworth is the school's careers adviser, and if you would like to contact her with any questions about careers or for advice then please email her at g.ashworth@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Feedback

We are always asking for parents and students to provide feedback on our careers support within school, and you can do this using one of our online forms:

- Parents click here: <https://forms.gle/r2NJ3HRQxHdxhgC18>
- Students click here: <https://forms.gle/CMDtFUJUUSFQSNuS7>

What is included in this newsletter?

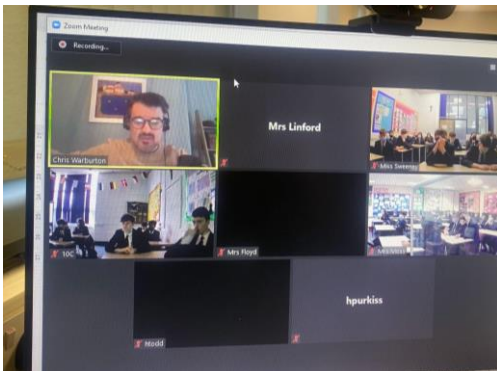
- The year so far
- Careers events coming up after Easter
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- Stockport Youth Council
- Local College deadlines and open days



The year so far

Year 10 & 11 pupils have been having interviews with Miss Ashworth and Ms Green where they have the chance to talk through their career aspirations and make a plan for their next steps when preparing for their careers. Some of our Year 11 pupils have also taken part in virtual work experience with InvestIN. Students have attended the Young Doctor, Architect, Vet, Sports Professional and Musician experience weekends.

Year 8 Careers breakfasts are underway, pupils were able to express an interest in a particular career and then got to speak to someone who works in that area. So far students have spoken to Mr Pontifex about careers in education, as well as hearing from people who work in healthcare, sport, and art.



In January pupils in Year 9 had an assembly delivered by Clif Barrett who is a creative artworker about his career and Year 10s heard from Chris Warburton about his job as a radio presenter. Students have also all had presentations from scientists as part of Science Week in March and got the chance to hear from some fantastic speakers - one specialising in shark science and the other in planetary science.

In January groups of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils visited Cheadle Hulme High School for a presentation from one of the Oxbridge Colleges. Students were able to hear all about why they might want to go to a university like Oxford or Cambridge, as well as what they might need to be doing now to prepare.

February also saw National Apprenticeship Week where form tutors were encouraged to share with pupils information about apprenticeships and get them talking about why they might like to do an apprenticeship.



We also had the pleasure of Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, visit St James' to talk to some of our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils about him, his role and his career. The pupils were able to have some really interesting discussions with him and certainly did not hold-back on some of the more difficult questions! Students were also offered the opportunity to reach out to him to get some work experience in his office as well.



MTX - a local apprenticeship provider gave some of our Year 11 pupils a presentation about their apprenticeship offer for students and we will be looking to take some other pupils to visit their site after Easter and get an idea of what the working environment is like.

Mrs Rarity and Miss Ashworth have continued to hold their Careers Drop-In every Monday lunchtime for Year 10 and 11 pupils where they can come and ask any questions they have as well as seek support with college applications.

What is coming up after Easter?

Year 11 Pupils who are interested in apprenticeships will be having a session with the ASK Apprenticeship programme where they will be able to search-for and apply to apprenticeships with the support of experts in the room helping them fill-out their application. Year 10 are going to be having an assembly from The Manchester College detailing all of the options open to them after finishing their GCSEs.

In July, during CEW Week year 10 will be on their work experience placements. We can already see some students arranging some fantastic placements and are sure that they are excited to get out into workplaces and experience them for maybe the first time.

During CEW Week we will also have a dedicated Careers Day where students in Years 7-9 will take part in careers, employability and enterprise activities to help develop their career planning and skills for work.



Many Year 11 pupils have now had careers appointments with Miss Ashworth and we are going to begin seeing some Year 10 pupils towards the end of the year to ensure we are giving them the best chance of being prepared for their next steps after St James'.

Spotlight on Careers - Lucy, The Globe Theatre in London





My name is Lucy, I am 23 and I work as an Administration Assistant at Shakespeare's Globe. My role is a varied one: from Education to Theatre, Ticketing to Finance, I work with every department at the Globe to provide administrative support to the Directors of each department. My primary duty is to support the Directorate with their diaries, but I also take minutes for several meetings across the Globe. I am therefore involved in discussions where major decisions are made about the direction of our output as a theatre, which, as a long-time theatre lover, is a dream come true!

English was my favourite subject throughout school, so when it came to choosing a university course it was never going to be a hard decision. I studied English at the University of Birmingham. As Birmingham is close to Stratford-upon-Avon (the birthplace of Shakespeare), I travelled to see nearly every show at the RSC while I was a student. This led to my love of Shakespeare, so much so, that I then went on to study my MA in Shakespeare Studies at King's College London (yes, it is a real course!).

The best part of my job is, without a doubt, the atmosphere of working in a theatre. Every person I work with has a wonderfully rich love for the arts. Hearing rehearsals taking place as I walk into the office makes it extra special. I also love working in a role that requires collaboration with a wide variety of colleagues, so everyday is different.

Throughout university, I acquired several work experience roles that helped me when applying for jobs. I volunteered with the National Literacy Trust, interned with a charity in Stratford-upon-Avon, volunteered in a local library and worked in a few hospitality jobs (such as bars, restaurants and pubs). Each role helps me in my current job, as each required standards of communication, practical skills and desk-based etiquette.

If you are considering working in a theatre or the arts, I would recommend getting as much transferable experience as you can. This does not have to be a competitive internship or high-earning job – it can be volunteering for one hour a week or completing short-term work experience. Working in an environment that you love will make that commitment worth it.

Useful online information and resources for parents and students

Youtube Informative Videos:

- [Stockport Jobs Match guide to A Levels and T Levels](#)
- [Stockport Jobs Match Guide to Apprenticeships and Vocational Qualifications](#)
- [Department for Education guide to Apprenticeships](#)

Events & courses

- [Browse free Virtual Work Experience opportunities by signing up here](#)
- [InvestIN Virtual Work Experience 10% discount using code STJAMES10](#)
- [Oxford Scholastica courses 15% discount using code STJAMESCHEADLE-15](#)
- [Local opportunities for students to build their skills, employability and work experience](#)



Information

- [Download a free parents' guide to T levels](#)
- [Latest Government information on Apprenticeships for Parents](#)
- [Lots of useful information and resources are available on our school website](#)
- [InvestIN Industry information for parents and pupils](#): Includes information on careers in medicine, law, politics, media, business, engineering, art & design, writing, sport, computing, environment, finance and psychology.

Stockport Youth Council

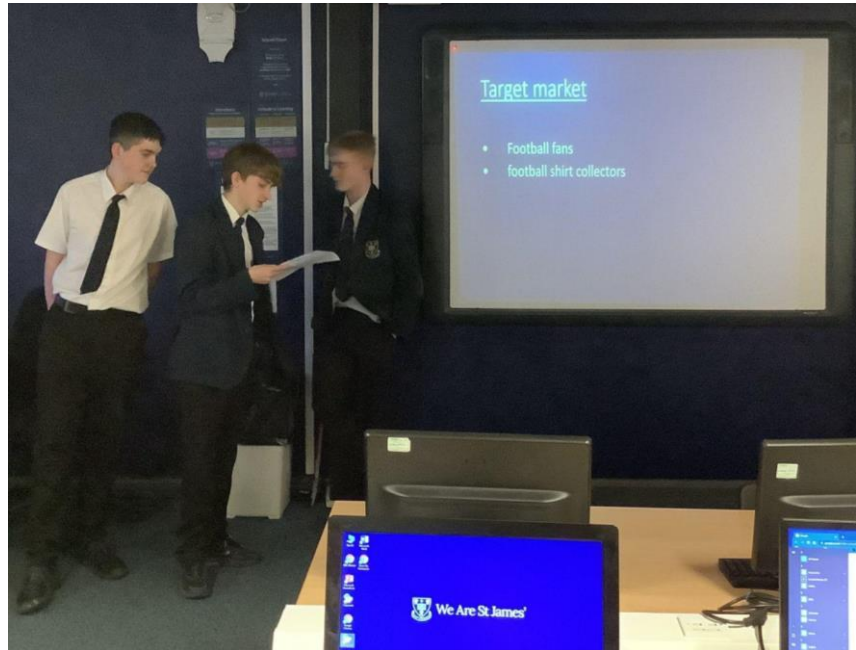
Stockport Youth Council is a group of young people who represent other young people locally with councillors and decision-makers. They also have 2 members of Youth Parliament, who get to go once a year to London to debate like MPs in the House of Commons. The youth council has created a newsletter for young people across the borough, which you can read here: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/YjtBomvSsz2uD/>

Anyone can get involved in the Youth Council as long as you live in Stockport Borough Council and are aged 11-18. It's a great opportunity to have a say in decisions that will impact on young people locally, as well as something to put on your CV when it comes to applying for jobs or college. They meet once a week on a Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7pm. The youth council is a great way for any students who are interested in working around helping others, or anything about politics and government. If you would like to get involved then you can email steve.davies@stockport.gov.uk.

We are extremely excited and proud that Rodrigo Palmer, in year 10 was recently elected as one of the members of Youth Parliament in Stockport and are excited to see what he goes on to do in the role.



Careers in the Curriculum



Mrs Rarity - ICT

BTEC DIT Careers Week

Year 11 Digital Information Technology pupils recently took part in a careers week challenge which saw them working in teams to pitch a business proposal. The week began with a focus on careers in the IT sector, looking at the different post 16 pathways including college courses and apprenticeships. The pupils then looked at employability skills and were able to reflect on their own strengths and qualities. Focusing on their entrepreneurial skills, the pupils then split into teams to devise a pitch for a potential business. They had to consider their unique selling point, target market, pricing strategies and what funding they would require. After each team presented their pitch Dragons Den style, the winners were L.J.W Shirts and their fantastic idea for a football shirt subscription service.



Latest on local college deadlines for Year 11

For Aquinas, Xaverian and Lotero colleges, as well as most other local sixth forms, the deadlines for 2023 entry have now passed. Students can submit late applications but they will not be guaranteed a place.

Applications for Stockport College, Cheadle College, Manchester College and Trafford College are open until the end of the year and students can apply at any time.

If you are concerned that your child does not have a place at college or has not sent off any applications then please get in touch with Miss Ashworth who will meet with them and work towards getting an application in.

College / Apprenticeship open events

It can be really important for students to get a feel for what a college campus is like before applying, which is why open days are so important. The below links are virtual open days which might not be the best thing to get a feel for the campus but it is certainly a start.

[Loreto College Virtual Campus tour](#)

[Xaverian College Virtual Campus Tour](#)

For pupils who have already applied to colleges or sixth forms, there may be opportunities later in the year to visit campuses for applicant visit days or applicant open evenings, make sure to keep an eye out for emails or phone calls from colleges asking you to come along to visit the campus.

Thank you all very much for taking the time to read our Careers Newsletter. As always we really do appreciate parental and student feedback on the careers provision in school. You can find the links to these feedback forms on the first page of this newsletter.

Sending you all best wishes for the Easter holidays.

Yours faithfully,

G Ashworth



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Miss G Ashworth

Careers Advisor